

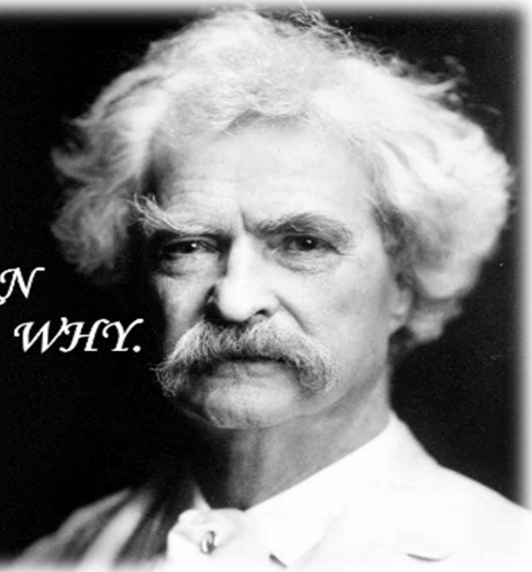
108
Greatest Of All Times



Globally selected
Personalities

*The two most important
days in your LIFE
are the day you are BORN
and the day you find out WHY.*

-Mark Twain



30 Nov 1835 <::><::><::> 21 Apl 1910

ISBN:978-81-981806-3-6

Compiled by:
Prof Dr S Ramalingam



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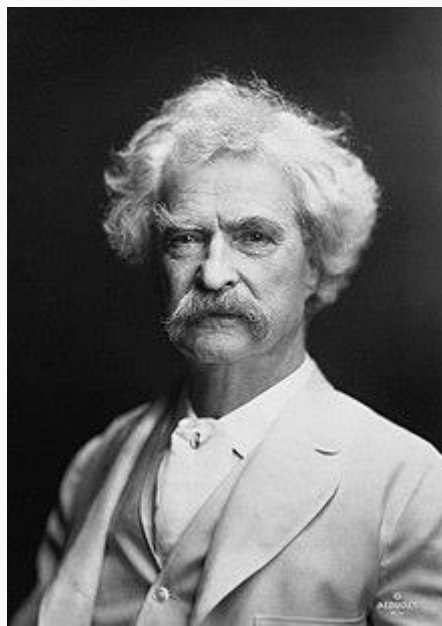
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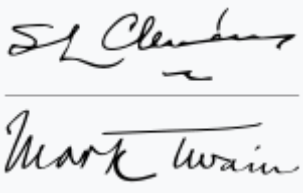
21 Apl 1910

Mark Twain



Mark Twain in 1907

Born	Samuel Langhorne Clemens November 30, 1835 Florida, Missouri , U.S.
Died	April 21, 1910 (aged 74) Stormfield House , Redding , Connecticut , U.S.
Resting place	Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira, New York , U.S.
Pen name	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Twain• Josh• Thomas Jefferson Snodgrass
Occupation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writer• humorist• entrepreneur• publisher• lecturer
Language	American English
Period	Modern

Genres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventure fiction • speculative fiction • travelogue • opinion journalism • literary criticism • polemic • essay • autobiography • correspondence • oration
Literary movement	American Realism
Years active	from 1863
Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial Enterprise • The Sacramento Union • The Alta California • New-York Tribune
Spouse	Olivia Langdon
	(m. 1870; died 1904)
Children	4, including Susy , Clara , and Jean
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Marshall Clemens • Jane Lampton Clemens
Relatives	Orion Clemens (brother)
	Signature
	



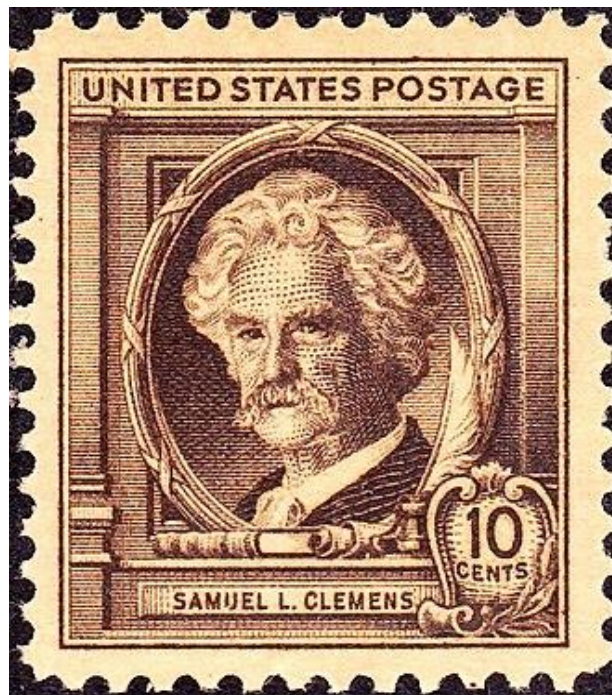
Twain House in Hartford,
Connecticut



Plaque on **Sydney Writers Walk** commemorating the visit
of Twain in 1895



In 1901, Twain wrote a satirical essay titled [To the Person Sitting in Darkness](#), in which he expressed his strong anti-imperialist views against ongoing conflicts such as the Boxer Rebellion, the Second Boer War and the Philippine-American War. At one point in the essay, Twain made a sardonic suggestion for a flag of the Philippines under American control; *"And as for a flag for the Philippine Province, it is easily managed. We can have a special one—our States do it: we can have just our usual flag, with the white stripes painted black and the stars replaced by the skull and cross-bones."*



The U.S. Post Office issued a commemorative stamp in 1940 honouring Mark Twain.

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Samuel Langhorne Clemens (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910), well known by his pen name Mark Twain, was an American author and humorist. Twain is noted for his novels *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), which has been called the "Great American Novel," and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876). He also wrote poetry, short stories, essays, and non-fiction. His big break was "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County" (1867).

Novels

- [*The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*](#) (1873)^[N 1]
- [*The Prince and the Pauper*](#) (1881)
- [*A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*](#) (1889)
- [*The American Claimant*](#) (1892)
- [*Pudd'nhead Wilson*](#) (1894)
- [*Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*](#) (1896)
- [*A Horse's Tale*](#) (1907)
- [*The Mysterious Stranger*](#) (1916, posthumous)

Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn

1. [*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*](#) (1876)
2. [*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*](#) (1884)
3. [*Tom Sawyer Abroad*](#) (1894)
4. [*Tom Sawyer, Detective*](#) (1896)
5. "Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer Among the Indians" (c. 1884, 9 chapters, unfinished)
6. "Huck Finn" (c. 1897, fragment)
7. "[Schoolhouse Hill](#)" (in [*The Mysterious Stranger*](#)) (c. 1898, 6 chapters, unfinished)
8. "Tom Sawyer's Conspiracy" (c. 1899, 10 chapters, unfinished)
9. "Tom Sawyer's Gang Plans a Naval Battle" (c. 1900, fragment)

Adam and Eve

- "[Extracts from Adam's Diary](#)", illustrated by [Frederick Strothmann](#) (1904)
- "[Eve's Diary](#)", illustrated by [Lester Ralph](#) (1906)
- "[The Private Life of Adam and Eve: Being Extracts from Their Diaries, Translated from the Original Mss.](#)" (Harper, 1931), [LCCN 31-27192](#)^[2] – posthumous issue of the 1904 and 1906 works bound as one, as Twain had requested in a recently discovered letter^[3]

Short stories

- "[The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County](#)" (1865)
- "[General Washington's Negro Body-Servant](#)" (1868)^[4]
- "[Cannibalism in the Cars](#)" (1868)
- "A Medieval Romance" [1868] (unfinished)^[5]
- "[My Late Senatorial Secretaryship](#)" (1868)^[6]
- Mark Twain vs Blondin [1869 satire letter](#)^[7]

- "A Ghost Story" (1870)^[8]: 176–180
- "[A True Story, Repeated Word for Word As I Heard It](#)" (1874)^[8]: 70–73
- "[Some Learned Fables for Good Old Boys and Girls](#)" (1875)^[8]: 77–83
- "[The Story Of The Bad Little Boy](#)" (1865)
- "[The Story Of The Good Little Boy](#)" (1875)
- "[A Literary Nightmare](#)" (1876)
- "[A Murder, a Mystery, and a Marriage](#)" (1876)
- "[The Canvasser's Tale](#)" (1876)
- "[The Invalid's Story](#)" (1877)^[8]: 135–?
- "[The Great Revolution in Pitcairn](#)" (1879)^[9]
- "[1601: Conversation, as it was by the Social Fireside, in the Time of the Tudors](#)" (1880)
- "[The McWilliamses and the Burglar Alarm](#)" (1882)
- "[The Stolen White Elephant](#)" (1882)
- "[Luck](#)" (1891)
- "[Those Extraordinary Twins](#)" (1892)
- "[Is He Living Or Is He Dead?](#)" (1893)
- "[The Esquimaux Maiden's Romance](#)" (1893)
- "[The Million Pound Bank Note](#)" (1893)^[8]: 226–238
- "[The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg](#)" (1900)
- "[A Double Barrelled Detective Story](#)" (1902)
- "[A Dog's Tale](#)" (1904)
- "[The War Prayer](#)" (1905)
- "[Hunting the Deceitful Turkey](#)" (1906)
- "[A Fable](#)" (1909)
- "[Extract from Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven](#)" (1909)
- "[My Platonic Sweetheart](#)" (1912, posthumous)
- "[The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine](#)"^[10] (2017, posthumous)

Collections

Short story collections

- [The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County and Other Sketches](#) (1867), short story collection
- [Mark Twain's \(Burlesque\) Autobiography and First Romance](#) (1871), short story collection
- [Sketches New and Old](#) (1875), short story collection
- [A True Story and the Recent Carnival of Crime](#) (1877), short story collection
- [Punch, Brothers, Punch! and Other Sketches](#) (1878), short story collection
- [Mark Twain's Library of Humor](#) (1888), short story collection
- [Merry Tales](#) (1892), short story collection
- [The £1,000,000 Bank Note and Other New Stories](#) (1893), short story collection
- [The \\$30,000 Bequest and Other Stories](#) (1906), short story collection
- [The Curious Republic of Gondour and Other Whimsical Sketches](#) (1919, posthumous), short story collection
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- [Mark Twain's Fables of Man](#) (1972, posthumous),^[11] short story collection
- *Early Tales & Sketches: 1864-1865* (2 vols. 1981). Edited by Edgar Marquess Branch and Robert H. Hirst. Published for The Iowa Center for Textual Studies by the University of California Press.

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- [*Europe and Elsewhere*](#) (1923, posthumous), edited by [Albert Bigelow Paine](#)
- [*Letters from the Earth*](#) (1962, posthumous)
- [*A Pen Warmed Up In Hell*](#) (1972, posthumous)^[12]
- [*The Bible According to Mark Twain*](#) (1996, posthumous)^[13]

Essays

- ["Advice for Good Little Girls"](#) (1865)
- ["On the Decay of the Art of Lying"](#) (1880)
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- ["The Private History of a Campaign That Failed"](#) (1885). Twain's Civil War experiences.^{[14][15]}
- ["Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses"](#) (1895)
- ["English As She Is Taught"](#) (1897)
- ["Concerning the Jews"](#) (1898)
- ["My First Lie, and How I Got Out of It"](#) (1899)^[16]
- ["A Salutation Speech From the Nineteenth Century to the Twentieth"](#) (1900)
- ["To the Person Sitting in Darkness"](#) (1901)
- ["To My Missionary Critics"](#) (1901)
- ["Edmund Burke on Croker and Tammany"](#) (1901)
- ["What Is Man?"](#) (1906)
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- ["Queen Victoria's Jubilee"](#) (1910)
- ["The United States of Lyncherdom"](#) (1923, posthumous)

Non-fiction

- [*The Innocents Abroad*](#) (1869), travel
- [*Roughing It*](#) (1872), travel
- [*Old Times on the Mississippi*](#) (1876), travel
- [*Some Rambling Notes of an Idle Excursion*](#) (1877), travel
- [*A Tramp Abroad*](#) (1880), travel
- [*Life on the Mississippi*](#) (1883), travel
- [*Following the Equator*](#) (sometimes titled "More Tramps Abroad") (1897), travel
- [*Is Shakespeare Dead?*](#) (1909)
- [*Moments with Mark Twain*](#) (1920, posthumous)
- [*Mark Twain's Notebook*](#) (1935, posthumous)

Other writings

- [*Is He Dead?*](#) (1898), play
- [*The Battle Hymn of the Republic, Updated*](#) (1901), satirical lyric
- [*King Leopold's Soliloquy*](#) (1905), satire
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Nov 30, 1835

Mark Twain Born

Samuel Langhorne Clemens is born in Florida, Missouri, the sixth child of John Marshall and Jane Lampton Clemens.

1839

Family Moves to Hannibal

The Clemens family moves to Hannibal, Missouri, a riverbank town that is a frequent stop for steamboats traveling the Mississippi. Young Samuel reveres the riverboat pilots and hopes to become one himself.

1847

Death of Twain's Father

Samuel's father John Clemens dies, forcing the family into financial hardship.

1851

Twain Takes Work as Printer

At the age of 15, Samuel leaves school and goes to work as a printer in Hannibal.

1857

Apprentice River Pilot

Samuel Clemens begins a successful two-year apprenticeship to become a licensed river pilot. He learns the lingo of the trade, including "mark twain," a phrase that refers to the river depth at which a boat is safe to navigate. He soon adopts it as his pen name.

Jun 1858

Death of Twain's Brother

Twain's youngest brother, Henry, is killed tragically at the age of 20 in an explosion on the steamboat *Pennsylvania*. Henry had been training to

become a steamboat pilot, at Twain's encouragement. The devastated Twain feels responsible for Henry's death the rest of his life.

Apr 1861

Civil War

The Civil War breaks out. Trade along the Mississippi River is halted, forcing an end to Twain's steamboat career. Twain spends two weeks training in a volunteer Confederate militia before it disbands.

1862

Twain Travels West

In an adventure later chronicled in the book *Roughing It*, Twain travels to Nevada with his brother Orion, who had been named the secretary to the territorial governor. He tries his hand at mining and other schemes before becoming a reporter for the Virginia City (Nev.) *Daily Territorial Enterprise*.

1864

Twain in California

Twain travels to northern California, visiting Calaveras County before settling in San Francisco.

Nov 18, 1865

"Jumping Frog" Published

The short story "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog" (later "[The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County](#)") appears in the New York *Saturday Press*. The story proves extremely popular and raises Twain's profile as a writer.

1866

Twain Begins Lecturing

Twain travels to Hawaii as a reporter for San Francisco's *Alta California* newspaper. When he returns to the mainland a few months later, he gives his first public lecture. It's a hit.

Dec 31, 1867

Twain Meets Future Wife

Twain is introduced to Olivia "Livy" Langdon, the sister of a friend. He is instantly smitten.

1869

The Innocents Abroad Published

Mark Twain's first book, *The Innocents Abroad*, becomes a bestseller.

1870

Twain Weds, Fathers First Child

Twain marries Olivia Langdon, who becomes an important editor of his work. Their son Langdon is born later that year.

1872

Twain in Connecticut

Twain moves his family to Hartford, Connecticut. He publishes *Roughing It*, the memoir of his years in the West. The year is one of tragedy and joy—the couple's daughter Susy is born, but their son Langdon dies of diphtheria.

1873

Twain Publishes *The Gilded Age*

Twain publishes the satiric novel *The Gilded Age*, its title giving a name to an entire era of American history. His most successful invention, the self-pasting scrapbook, makes its debut the same year.

1874

Clara Clemens Born

Daughter Clara is born, the only one of Twain's children to outlive her father.

1876

Tom Sawyer

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is published.

1880

Jean Clemens Born

Livy Clemens gives birth to the couple's fourth and final child, a daughter named Jean.

1883

Life on the Mississippi

Twain publishes *Life on the Mississippi*, his memoir of his years as a steamboat pilot.

1884

Twain Finds Publishing Company

Twain founds his own publishing company, Charles L. Webster & Co. (named after his nephew and co-owner Charles L. Webster). It turns out to be a bad financial move—the company's struggles will eventually ruin his family's finances.

1885

Huck Finn

In the span of less than a year, Twain publishes both his greatest fiction and non-fiction works: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and a biography of President Ulysses S. Grant.

1889

Connecticut Yankee

Twain publishes *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Critics slam the book.

1891

Twain in Europe

His finances in shambles following a series of poor business decisions, Twain moves his family from Hartford to Europe for cheaper living.

1894

Twain's Last Novel

Pudd'nhead Wilson, Twain's last novel, is published. After ten difficult years, Twain's publishing house, Charles L. Webster & Co., finally goes belly-up. The writer finds himself essentially bankrupt. Close friend Henry Huttleston Rogers takes over his finances, saving him from complete disaster.

1895

Lecture Tour

Twain hits the road for a worldwide lecture tour in order to pay back his creditors.

1896

Death of Susy Clemens

Twain's 24-year-old daughter Susy dies of meningitis in the U.S. while Twain is lecturing in Europe. Twain, who was particularly close to his oldest

daughter, is devastated. He never fully recovers from her death, which marks the end of his most successful period as a writer.

1904

Death of Livy Clemens

Twain's wife Livy dies after a serious two-year illness. Following his wife's death, Twain moves to New York City and begins writing his autobiography.

Oct 25, 1906

Family Troubles

Twain's youngest daughter Jean is institutionalized due to severe epilepsy. Twain's biographer, Albert Bigelow Paine, moves in with Twain to collect material.

1908

Angelfish Club

Twain moves into a house in Connecticut that he names Stormfield. Lonely and missing his wife and daughters, he forms a club of young girls called the Angelfish Club who meet regularly at his house to play cards.

1909

Death of Jean Clemens

Twain's youngest daughter, Jean Clemens, dies.

Apr 10, 1910

Death of Mark Twain

Mark Twain dies at the age of 74 at his home in Redding, Connecticut.

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QUOTATIONS

Kindly listen to his 100 Quotes

Mark Twain's 100 Life Lessons .You'll Regret Not Listening To

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWPUKlfYds8>

- Anger

When angry, count four; when very angry, swear.

"Classic": A book which people praise and don't read.

Everyone is a moon, and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody.

- Children and Childhood

A baby is an inestimable blessing and bother.

- Courage

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear.

The report of my death was an exaggeration.

Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.

We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it—and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove lid again—and that is well; but also, she will never sit down on a cold one anymore.

Facts

Facts, or what a man believes to be facts, are always delightful. . . . Get your facts first, and . . . then you can distort 'em as much as you please.

Familiarity

Familiarity breeds contempt—and children.

- Fools and Foolishness

Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.

- Foreigners and Foreignness

They spell it Vinci and pronounce it Vinchy; foreigners always spell better than they pronounce.

- Freedom and Liberty

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them.

Friends and Friendship

The holy passion of Friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a whole lifetime, if not asked to lend money.

Goodness

To be good is noble; but to show others how to be good is nobler and no trouble.

Gratitude

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

Habit

Habit is habit, and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time.

- Holidays

April 1. This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four.

- Humor and Wit

The secret source of Humor itself is not joy but sorrow. There is no humor in heaven.

Illusion

Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone, you may still exist, but you have ceased to live.

- Invention and Discovery

Name the greatest of all the inventors: Accident.

- Language

The difference between the *almost right* word and the *right* word is really a large matter—'tis the difference between the lightning-bug and the lightning.

Leaders and Rulers

All kings is mostly rascallions.

Oss

A coin, sleeve-button or a collar-button dropped in a bedroom will hide itself and be hard to find. A handkerchief in bed *can't* be found.

Lying and Liars

One of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives.

- Majorities

Hain't we got all the fools in town on our side? And ain't that a big enough majority in any town?

- Manners

Good breeding consists in concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person.

- Money

There are two times in a man's life when he should not speculate: when he can't afford it, and when he can.

- Opinion

It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races.

- Order and Efficiency

Have a place for everything and keep the thing somewhere else. This is not advice, it is merely custom.

- Originality

What a good thing Adam had. When he said a good thing he knew nobody had said it before.

- Prudence and Foresight

Put all your eggs in the one basket and—WATCH THAT BASKET.

- Reform and Reformers

Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits.

- Shame

Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to.

- Statistics

... the remark attributed to Disraeli ... : "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.

- Temptation

There are several good protections against temptations, but the surest is cowardice.

- The Forbidden

Adam was but human—this explains it all. He did not want the apple for the apple's sake, he wanted it only because it was forbidden. The mistake was in not forbidding the serpent; then he would have eaten the serpent.

- Virtue

Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.

- Weather

There is a sumptuous variety about the New England weather that compels the stranger's admiration—and regret. The weather is always doing something there; always attending strictly to business; always getting up new designs and trying them on people to see how they will go. But it gets through more business in spring than in any other season. In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of twenty-four hours.

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Memorials

Mark Twain

[01] The Mark Twain Memorial Lighthouse



Enjoy a panoramic view of Hannibal and the Mississippi River. To begin your journey up the 244 steps to our lighthouse, head to the intersection of North and Main Street in Hannibal, near the Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn Statue. You will be sure to snap some fantastic river photos, as well as pictures of Historic Downtown Hannibal.

The Mark Twain Memorial Lighthouse sits on 10 acres of park atop Cardiff Hill, a favorite play area of Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn, and the gang. Cross streets are E. Rock and E. Cardiff.

Parking is available near the top. There is also a rear entrance from Cardiff Hill Drive, offering handicapped accessible parking. The area around the Lighthouse offers a panoramic view of Hannibal and the Mississippi River. Please note that the public is not allowed inside the Lighthouse.

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[02] Mark Twain Memorial Shrine



[03] Mark Twain Memorial Stone



[04] Woodlawn Cemetery



[05] Mark Twain Statue



This is a statue that we happened on during the trolley tour. It is high above the river so you can look down and see the islands and boats. It is also a beautiful place to rest and if we were not on the trolley tour take a picnic lunch. It would be good for children because there is a lot of space to run around.

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The Mark Twain American Voice in Literature Award

<https://marktwainhouse.org/event/american-voice-in-literature-award-celebration/>

One of the nation's leading literary prizes, The Mark Twain American Voice in Literature Award honours an exemplary work of fiction from the previous calendar year that speaks with an "American Voice" about American experiences, much like Twain's masterwork, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.



**THE MARK TWAIN AMERICAN
VOICE IN LITERATURE AWARD
CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

<https://marktwainhouse.ejoinme.org/AVL2024>

The
Mark Twain
American Voice
in Literature
Celebration

November 1, 2024

You are invited to join *New York Times* bestselling author, David Baldacci, our sponsors, and special guests at an elegant reception celebration to recognize a modern voice that's defining our current America.

5:30 p.m. VIP Champagne Reception with the winning author, Alice McDermott, and David Baldacci

(for Patron ticket holders and Sponsors)

6:30 p.m. Social Celebration

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres & Buffet Station

8:00 p.m. American Voice in Literature Award Presentation and Remarks

9:00 p.m. Dessert & Coffee Reception

Catering by David Alan

Our host for the evening is 3-time Emmy-award winning journalist, Kara Sundlun of WFSB Channel 3.

The Mark Twain House Museum Center
351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT

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[View through this Web Link](#)

2019 Mark Twain American Voice in Literature Award Ceremony

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jp8cklxgxxM> [46:50]

Hartford's literary community gathered at The Mark Twain House & Museum to honor Jesmyn Ward, recipient of the 2019 Mark Twain American Voice in Literature (MTAVL) Award for her 2017 novel *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. The award is presented by The Mark Twain House & Museum to the author whose recent book of fiction best embodies an "American voice" such as Twain established in his masterpiece *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The award was presented to Ward by Pieter Roos, executive director of The Mark Twain House & Museum, and acclaimed best-selling author and Mark Twain House trustee David Baldacci before a sold-out Mark Twain House auditorium on May 15, 2019.

Ward is professor of creative writing at Tulane University, a 2017 MacArthur Fellow, and a 2010 recipient of a John and Renee Grisham Writers Residency at the University of Mississippi. She is also a two-time recipient of the National Book Award.



The Mission of The Mark Twain House & Museum

Mark Twain changed the way the world sees America and the way



Americans see themselves. We carry on this legacy to foster an appreciation of Twain as one of our nation's defining cultural figures, and to demonstrate the continuing relevance of his work, life, and times.

The Mark Twain House & Museum has restored the author's historic Hartford, Connecticut home, built in 1874, where the author and his family lived for 17 years. It was here that Twain wrote his most important works, including *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. In addition to providing tours of Twain's restored home, a National Historic Landmark, we offer educational and public programs that encourage critical thinking and foster literacy, humanity, and social justice.

The Mark Twain House

Construction began in August of that year, while Sam and Livy were abroad. Although there was still much finish work to be completed, the family moved into their house on September 19, 1874. Construction delays and the ever-increasing costs of building their dream home frustrated Sam.

Their home measures 11,500 square feet, and has 25 rooms distributed through three floors. It displayed the latest in modern innovations when it was built in 1874. The couple spent \$40,000 to \$45,000 building their new home, so once they moved in, they kept the interior simple. Mark Twain and his family enjoyed what the author would later call the happiest and most productive years of his life in their Hartford home.

Financial problems forced Sam and Livy to move the family to Europe in 1891. The family would never live in Hartford again. Susy's death in 1896 made it too hard for Livy to return to their Hartford home, and the Clemenses sold the property in 1903.

Sam's mounting success as a writer and lecturer enabled the Clemenses to do up their new house in grand style. In 1881, they contracted with Louis C. Tiffany & Co., Associated Artists, (Tiffany was the son of the founder of the famed jewelry store, Tiffany & Co.) to decorate the walls and ceilings of the public spaces in their home, particularly the newly enlarged entry hall.

Associated Artists were members of the Aesthetic movement, and were known for their exotic interiors. The same year they decorated the Mark Twain House interior they were hired by U.S. President Chester Arthur to redecorate the state rooms of the White House. The company was made up of four designers: Louis C. Tiffany, Candace Wheeler, Lockwood DeForest and Samuel Coleman. Each brought ideas from different parts of the world where they had traveled and studied, and each had a hand in the design of the Mark Twain House interior. The first floor of the house is filled with design motifs from Morocco, India, Japan, China and Turkey.

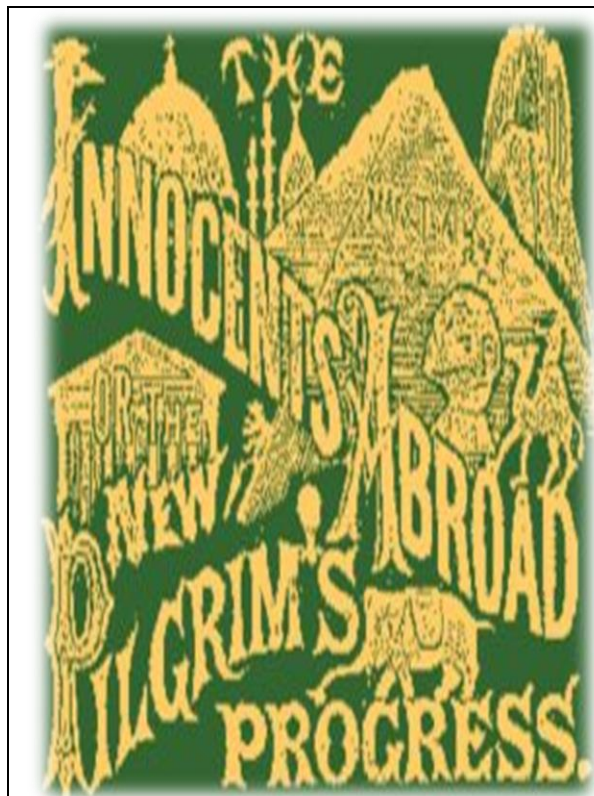
Museum Store

The Museum Store offers books for readers of all ages, souvenirs, Victorian gifts, and exclusive items available only through The Mark Twain House & Museum. A wide selection of Twain books and memorabilia are also available at our online store.

This exhibition at **[Twain's Attic: 90 Years, 90 Treasures]** The Mark Twain House & Museum celebrated the 90th anniversary of the organization by exhibiting 90 objects from its collection to commemorate its 90 years of work in collecting, preserving, and interpreting the life and times of Mark Twain/Samuel Clemens and his family. The main areas of focus are: the saving of the house and our founding; Nook Farm players; Tiffany, pop culture; the Langdon family; and Clara Clemens and Ossip Gabrilowitsch (with their home movies).

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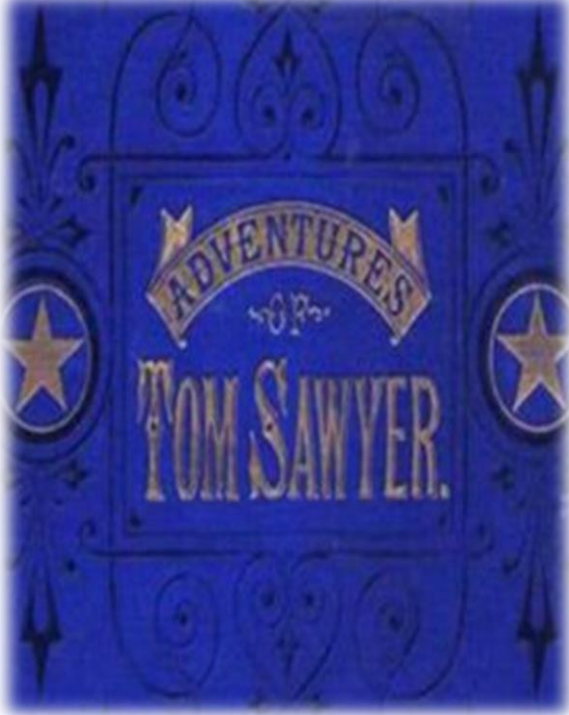
His BOOKS



1869

The Innocents Abroad

Mark Twain's account, adapted from his own newspaper reports, of his adventures traveling through Europe and the Middle East with other Americans. Voyaging on the steamship Quaker City, the sightseers first make stops in Europe, including Paris, Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome and Athens. Their journey culminates in an extended trip through the Holy Land and Egypt. Throughout the book, Twain lampoons the meeting of these pilgrims from the New World, filled with a pretentious reverence and awe, with the hallowed culture of the Old World, often represented by Twain as not equaling its reputation.



1876

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

From the Preface: "Most of the adventures recorded in this book really occurred; one or two were experiences of my own, the rest those of boys who were schoolmates of mine. Huck Finn is drawn from life; Tom Sawyer also, but not from an individual – he is a combination of the characteristics of three boys whom I knew, and therefore belongs to the composite order of architecture... Part of my plan has been to try to pleasantly remind adults of what they once were themselves, and of how they felt and thought and talked, and what queer enterprises they sometimes engaged in."



1881

The Prince and the Pauper

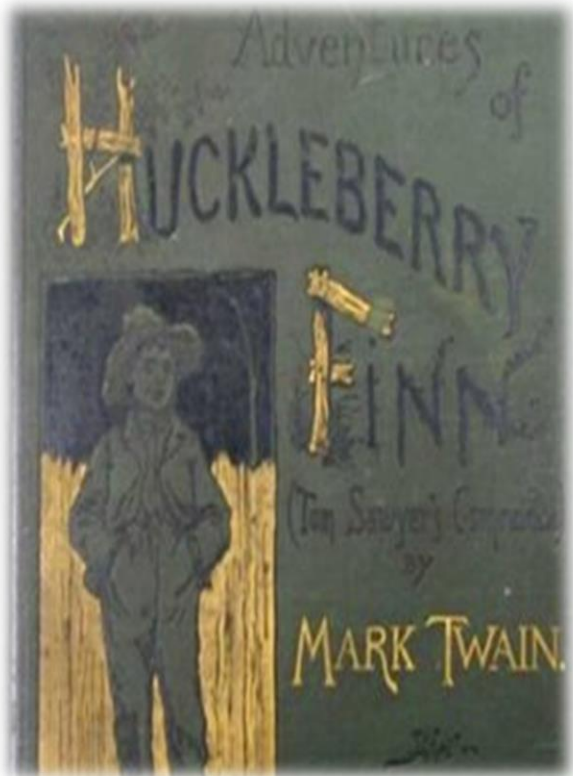
Edward Tudor and Tom Canty are the same age and share the same features, but one of them is a pauper's child and the other is the heir to the throne of England. When chance brings the boys together, they decide for fun to switch clothes, but fate suddenly casts them into each other's worlds. Tom learns what is to be caught in the pomp and folly of the royal court and the young prince learns what it is to survive in the lower depths of 16th-century English society. Through the switched identities Mark Twain has fashioned both a scathing attack on social hypocrisy and injustice, and an irresistible comedy imbued with the sense of spirited play that belongs to this creative period.



1883

Life on the Mississippi

This was Mark Twain's seminal work on the river that gave birth to much of his most successful fiction. Entertaining, yet enlightening, *Life on the Mississippi* is a textbook on the history, life and lore of the Great River during the 19th century, but also a primer on the "science" of the piloting the Mississippi during the heyday of the great steamboats that once traveled the greatest inland waterway of America.



1884

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Mark Twain's classic novel, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, tells the story of a teenage misfit who finds himself floating on a raft down the Mississippi River with an escaping slave, Jim. In the course of their perilous journey, Huck and Jim meet with adventure, danger, and a cast of characters who are sometimes menacing and often hilarious. Although the story was mostly written in the 1880s, it is set in the time of slavery prior to the Civil War. Twain uses Huck's predicaments to illustrate the failure of reconstruction in the post-Civil War South.

1880

A Tramp Abroad

The third of the five travel books authored by Mark Twain. A Tramp Abroad contains the experiences of Twain's "walking" tour of Germany, Switzerland and France. Typical of Twain's style in drafting travel novels, A Tramp Abroad places Twain as the narrator of an oftentimes uninformed American tourist visiting and discovering the mysteries of the European continent - a wonderful satire for those who have visited Europe or are planning a trip to "the continent."

1889

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

Hank Morgan, superintendent at the Colt Firearms Factory in Hartford, Connecticut, is knocked unconscious in a fight. He wakes up in the time of King Arthur. Hank introduces such innovations as schools, factories, bicycles and gunpowder. At first, Hank is convinced that his ideas will do the citizens of Arthur's court good, but as he takes command he turns more and more to violence and loses control of the results of his entrepreneurial efforts. A Connecticut Yankee was one of the last large-scale novels Mark Twain produced and its dark, cynical themes foreshadow ideas he would delve into more deeply in much of his later work.

1893/1905

The Diaries of Adam and Eve

Extracts from Adam's Diary (1893) is a witty and whimsical look at the Biblical creation story and Adam's adventures as he explores his new world. Twain uses this work as a forum to express his irreverent thoughts on conventional religion. By contrast, Eve's Diary (1905) is Twain's tribute to his beloved wife, Livy. The story from Eve's viewpoint speaks eloquently of kindness and human goodness - overall, a commentary on Livy's gentle nature. Adam's last words at Eve's grave are: "Wheresoever she was, there was Eden."

1894

The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson

A murder mystery set in a town on the Mississippi featuring strong and weak characters, some black and some white. The book has a strong female character, unusual in Mark Twain's writing. While trying to solve the mystery you will enjoy reading great quotes at the beginning of each Chapter from Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar such as: "Why is it that we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral?"

1896

Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc

Twain said he regarded this work as his best: his version of the story of the Maid of Orleans who, in 1429, at the age of 17, led a French rebellion against English domination. She was tried for witchcraft and heresy by French priests,

supporters of the English, and burned at the stake. Twain viewed Joan of Arc as his bid to be considered a "serious" writer. Joan is considered to be Twain's ideal woman: gentle, selfless and pure, but also courageous and eloquent. Twain's Joan is said to be modeled after his oldest daughter, Susy, who died tragically three months after Joan of Arc was published.

1897

Following the Equator

Twain's fifth and last travel book is a relatively straightforward narrative of his round-the-world lecture tour of 1895-96. It includes discussions of Australian history and economic development, Asian culture, British rule in India and South African politics. It contains many humorous passages, but is generally more serious in tone than the author's earlier travel works.

1916

The Mysterious Stranger

An adult tale set in a medieval European village, *The Mysterious Stranger* tells of some boys who encounter a young stranger who performs wonderful feats of magic and shows the boys different times and places in mankind's history. The stranger turns out to be a nephew of Satan. In this work, not published during his lifetime and not in its entirety for decades after his death, Twain explored and explained his feelings about religion and faith, good and evil.

Suggested Readings on Mark Twain

Though not a biography of Samuel L. Clemens alone, the best introduction to Mark Twain in Hartford is Kenneth R. Andrews' *Nook Farm: Mark Twain's Hartford Circle* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1950). A conscious attempt to portray a community in its social, religious and business life, it succeeds brilliantly as a gracefully written, incisive and witty look at the Hartford of the Gilded Age, while providing much biographical information about Clemens and the men and women around him.

Biographies

Tip: For insight, **Justin Kaplan**; for a lively read, **Ron Powers**; for both, **Susan Clemens**.

Clemens, Clara. ***My Father, Mark Twain***. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1931.

Clemens, Susan [ed. Charles Neider]. ***Papa: An Intimate Biography of Mark Twain by His Thirteen-Year-Old Daughter Susy***. New York: Doubleday, 1985.

Clemens, Samuel L. [ed. Michael Kiskis] ***Mark Twain's Own Autobiography: The Chapters from the North American Review***. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1990.

Hoffman, Andrew. ***Inventing Mark Twain: The Lives of Samuel L. Clemens***. New York: William Morrow, 1997.

Howells, William Dean. ***My Mark Twain***. Mineola, N.Y.: Dover, 1997 (reprint of 1910 edition).

Kaplan, Fred. ***The Singular Mark Twain***. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Kaplan, Justin. ***Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain: A Biography***. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1966.

Loving, Jerome. ***Mark Twain: The Adventures of Samuel L. Clemens***. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 2010.

Meltzer, Milton. ***Mark Twain Himself***. New York: Wings Books, 1960.

Powers, Ron. ***Mark Twain: A Life***. New York: Free Press, 2005.

Other Works on Twain

Although scholarly in nature, these books are good reading for those who want to go a little beyond the biography.

Budd, Louis J. ***Mark Twain: Social Philosopher***. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1962.

DeVoto, Bernard. (ed.) ***Mark Twain in Eruption***. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1940.

Fatout, Paul. ***Mark Twain on the Lecture Circuit***. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1960.

Fishkin, Shelley Fisher. ***Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African American Voices***. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Harris, Susan K. ***The Courtship of Olivia Langdon and Mark Twain***. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Hill, Hamlin. ***Mark Twain and Elisha Bliss***. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1964.

Jerome, Robert D., and Herbert A. Wisbey, eds. ***Mark Twain in Elmira***. Elmira, N.Y.: Mark Twain Society, 1977.

Lorch, Fred W. ***The Trouble Begins at Eight: Mark Twain's Lecture Tours***. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1968.

Powers, Ron. ***White Town Drowsing***. Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1986.

Schirer, Thomas. ***Mark Twain and the Theatre***. Nurnberg: Carl, 1984.

Steinbrink, Jeffrey. ***Getting to Be Mark Twain***. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.

Willis, Resa. Mark & Livy: ***The Love Story of Mark Twain and the Woman Who Almost Tamed Him***. New York: Atheneum, 1992.

A Quartet: Mark Twain's Last Years

Four differing takes on the years without Livy, particularly his relationship with his secretary, Isabel Lyon. Reading a couple of them back-to-back could provoke great discussion in a book club.

Hill, Hamlin. ***Mark Twain, God's Fool***. New York: Harper & Row, 1973.

Lystra, Karen. ***Dangerous Intimacy: The Untold Story of Mark Twain's Final Years***. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.

Shelden, Michael: ***Mark Twain, Man in White: The Grand Adventure of His Final Years***. Random House, 2010.

Trombley, Laura. ***Mark Twain's Other Woman: The Hidden Story of His Final Years***. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010.

A Pairing: A Famous Controversy

The Brooks-DeVoto squabble in the 1920s-30s took interest in Mark Twain off the children's literature shelves and into the world of grown-up readers and critics. Brooks' thesis: Mark Twain was domesticated by his Eastern life and wife and could have been a much better writer. De Voto's thesis: Nope.

Brooks, Van Wyck, ***The Ordeal of Mark Twain***. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1920.

DeVoto, Bernard. ***Mark Twain's America***. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1932

His Times, His Contemporaries

Andrews, Kenneth R. ***Nook Farm: Mark Twain's Hartford Circle***. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1950.

Applegate, Debby. ***The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher***. New York: Doubleday, 2006.

Baldwin, Peter. ***Domesticating the Street: The Reform of Public Space in Hartford, 1850–1930***. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1999.

Blight, David. ***Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory***. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.

Brady, Kathleen. ***Ida Tarbell: Portrait of an American Muckraker***. New York: Seaver/Putnam, 1984.

Canby, Henry Seidel. ***Turn East, Turn West: Mark Twain and Henry James***. New York: Biblo and Tannen, 1965.

Courtney, Steve, **Joseph Hopkins Twichell: The Life and Times of Mark Twain's Closest Friend**. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2008.

Dempsey, Terrell. **Searching for Jim: Slavery in Sam Clemens' World**. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2003.

Foner, Eric. **A Short History of Reconstruction, 1863–1877**. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.

Goodwin, Francis, II. **The Monday Evening Club of Hartford, Connecticut**. Hartford: privately printed, 1970.

Hedrick, Joan. **Harriet Beecher Stowe, A Life**. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Hosley, William. **Colt: The Making of an American Legend**. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1996.

Jones, Howard Mumford. **The Age of Energy: Varieties of American Experience 1865–1915**. New York: Viking, 1971.

McFeely, William. **Ulysses S. Grant: A Biography**. New York: W. W. Norton, 1981.

Morris, Roy, Jr. **Fraud of the Century: Rutherford B. Hayes, Samuel Tilden, and the Stolen Election of 1876**. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003.

Rugoff, Milton. **The Beechers: An American Family in the Nineteenth Century**. New York: Harper & Row, 1981.

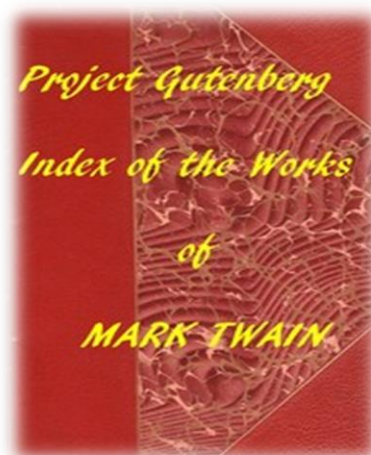
Strachey, Lytton. **Eminent Victorians: The Illustrated Edition**. New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1988.

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The Works of Mark Twain

An Index of all Project Gutenberg Editions by Mark Twain

[\[https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/28803\]](https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/28803)



Author	Twain, Mark, 1835-1910
Editor	Widger, David, 1932-2021?
Title	The Works of Mark Twain: An Index of all Project Gutenberg Editions
Credits	Produced by David Widger
Language	English

Summary

"The Works of Mark Twain: An Index of all Project Gutenberg Editions by Mark Twain," edited by David Widger, is a reference work compiled in the early 21st century. This book serves as an exhaustive index of the various editions of Mark Twain's writings available through Project Gutenberg, highlighting both illustrated and non-illustrated works. It covers a broad range of Twain's literary contributions, including novels, essays, and autobiographical pieces, collectively showcasing the themes and subjects of Twain's enduring literary legacy. The content of this index facilitates readers' exploration of Mark Twain's oeuvre by listing titles such as "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," "Huckleberry Finn," "The Prince and the Pauper," and many others. Each entry provides a glimpse into Twain's diverse storytelling—from humorous anecdotes to poignant social commentary—reflecting his mastery of language and character development. This resource not only covers Twain's fiction but also includes letters and speeches that offer insight into his thoughts and perspectives. Overall, it serves as a valuable guide for scholars, educators, and fans of American literature seeking to access and appreciate Twain's influential works. (This is an automatically generated summary.)

Biography of

MARK TWAIN

IN

POETRY FOUNDATION

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/mark-twain>

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, was born in Florida, Missouri, in 1835. A distinguished novelist, fiction writer, essayist, journalist, and literary critic, he ranks among the great figures of American literature. His novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885) is generally considered his masterpiece. His novels *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889) and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), and *The Innocents Abroad* (1869), a travelogue and cultural critique, are also highly regarded. Twain's travelogues *Life on the Mississippi* (1883) and *Roughing It* (1872) are prized for their humorous insights into American life in the late 19th century. Many would agree with H.L. Mencken, who wrote of Twain in *A Mencken Chrestomathy*, "I believe that he was the true father of our national literature."

As a child, Twain moved from Florida, Missouri to Hannibal, Missouri, on the banks of the Mississippi River. Young Twain reveled in life along the Mississippi, a river busy with steamboat activity, and he often traveled in makeshift rafts or cavorted in various swimming holes. Nearby woods and a cave afforded him still further opportunity for exploration and adventure. But Twain's childhood was not one of only carefree play. His father, a lawyer, faltered with various business speculations, and when he died in 1847, Twain—then only 12 years old—was compelled to cease formal study and begin apprenticing as a typesetter for local newspapers. He eventually came to work for his brother, Orion Clemens, who owned several newspapers. During this period, Twain contributed, under the pseudonym S.L.C., a humorous piece to the *Carpet-Bag*, a Boston magazine.

Serving as their own business managers, Twain and his brother soon repeated their father's history and suffered their own series of business failings, whereupon Twain departed and began several years of travel. Throughout the next three years, he wandered from the Midwest to the East Coast and supported himself by publishing his observations in the various newspapers still managed by Orion. He eventually rejoined his brother in Keokuk, Iowa, where they again worked in the newspaper business. This new venture endured for two years, during which time Twain also made arrangements with a local newspaper editor for publication of forthcoming musings once he resumed traveling.

In 1857 Twain left Keokuk with intentions of traveling down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, Louisiana, from which he would then depart for South America with intentions of amassing a fortune there. But in the spring of that year, Twain met a veteran steamboat captain named Horace Bixby. Twain was greatly intrigued by Bixby, and for the next two years he served as the captain's apprentice, sailing with him down the Mississippi, where they enjoyed many adventures and rollicking times. Indeed, Twain was so enraptured by life on the Mississippi that he managed only a few contributions for the Keokuk editor, who was, doubtless, anticipating accounts of the South American adventure, which Twain had, by then, aborted.

Twain obtained his own pilot's license in 1859 and spent more time traveling up and down the Mississippi River. His exploits in this period, which Twain recalled with particular warmth and enthusiasm, eventually served as material for some of his most inspired writing. But even while traveling along the river, he continued supplying occasional missives to various publications, including one that is believed to be the first that he signed as Mark Twain. His initial publication as Twain is a lampoon of an account published by riverboat captain Isaiah Sellers under the pseudonym Mark Twain (the name is, itself, a nautical term). Legend has it that Sellers was so embarrassed by Twain's parody and Twain, consequently, was so regretful, that he assumed the pseudonym as a means of atonement.

After the Civil War effectively closed business travel along the Mississippi (which was being used as an invasion route by Union troops), Twain was unable to continue working as a riverboat captain. He briefly served in the Confederate Army, then rejoined Orion, who had recently won a position in the Nevada territory government as reward for his work on President Abraham Lincoln's re-election campaign. Twain traveled with his brother to Nevada, then commenced a year's work panning for gold and silver. These experiences would later provide the basis for his volume *Roughing It* (1872). For a year, Twain panned only occasionally, content instead to mock the entire venture by producing comedic missives for the nearby Virginia City *Territorial Enterprise*. In 1862, he joined

the publication and assumed the Mark Twain pseudonym almost exclusively in alternating his humorous reports with conventional pieces.

While writing in Virginia City, Twain ran afoul of a rival journalist, who insisted on a duel. To avoid imprisonment for violation of the town's anti-duelling statute, Twain promptly fled to San Francisco, California, where he soon found work with various newspapers. In San Francisco, he became known for his often moralistic, though humorous, diatribes against public figures and institutions. On one occasion, he offended the city's police department, which responded with a lawsuit charging libel. Twain then fled to the Sierras, where he again haphazardly panned for gold. After a few months, during which the San Francisco police dropped their lawsuit, Clemens returned to the city and learned of a request from prominent humorist Artemus Ward for a piece to be included in a forthcoming humor anthology. Twain responded with the story that became known as "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." The tale arrived too late for inclusion in Ward's volume but was pirated by the *New York Saturday Press*, where it won great acclaim. It was eventually copied in newspapers throughout America and published, with other tales, as Twain's first book, *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, and Other Sketches* (1865).

Throughout the remainder of the 1860s, Twain travelled widely and contributed his observations to various West Coast publications. For much of this period he even served as an official correspondent for the San Francisco *Daily Morning*. One of his most celebrated and notorious writings from this period, however, came as a correspondent for the *Alta California*, whose editors he convinced to finance a five-month jaunt aboard the *Quaker City* pleasure boat bound for Europe and the Middle East. In his ensuing correspondences, which also appeared in the *New York Tribune*, Twain both mocked the solemnity of the sailing party's wealthier members and reveled in the pranks and adventures of its younger, more reckless members. Such reports—at once informative yet funny, and often biting—only strengthened Twain's popularity, and upon returning to the United States he compiled the *Quaker City* correspondence as *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) and heeded widespread demand for his presence as a public lecturer.

With *The Innocents Abroad*, Twain enjoyed considerable commercial and critical success. Its popularity was rather surprising, for the book was published by a subscription house, which sold works door to door on a speculative basis. Interested readers would pay in advance for the book, which would, in turn, realize actual publication only after sufficient sales had been guaranteed. But Twain, who significantly padded the book—length was an important aspect of the sales—nonetheless succeeded in producing a work that appealed to readers with its lively humor and keen, unflinching insights and depictions. Notable in the book are episodes in Venice, Italy, where the gondoliers are inevitably characterized as cheery opportunists, and in Palestine, where conniving beggars exploit the company's more squeamish members. Perhaps because of the work's broad, seemingly unflagging humor, *The Innocents Abroad* still ranks among Twain's most accomplished works.

While completing *The Innocents Abroad*, Twain received an invitation to New York City from his friend, Charles Langdon, who was part of a prominent, wealthy family. During his stay with the family, Twain fell in love with Langdon's sister, Olivia, who was considered a sensitive, delicate young woman. Her father, Jervis Langdon, made the customary inquiries into Twain's life, and though he learned little of positive note about the prospective suitor, he nonetheless agreed to the marriage. But as a safeguard to his daughter's well-being, Jervis Langdon provided Twain with a sizeable shareholding of a

newspaper in Buffalo, where the newlyweds intended to live. In addition, Langdon housed the couple in a furnished mansion.

Unfortunately, Jervis Langdon died within a year of his daughter's marriage to Twain. And after his death, Olivia, already pregnant, suffered a collapse. Twain, too, came under increasing strain, for he was already fashioning another book, *Roughing It* (1872), while grieving his father-in-law's death, tending to his wife, and preparing for the birth of their child. Perhaps as a means of alleviating domestic and professional anxiety, Twain abruptly moved the family from Buffalo. They settled briefly at Quarry Farm, his sister-in-law's residence, then moved to Hartford, Connecticut, where he completed *Roughing It*.

Like *The Innocents Abroad*, *Roughing It* was sold on a subscription basis, and like the preceding volume, it proved a popular work with the American public. Here Twain adopted a rudimentary storyline, with the narrator developing from a sentimentalist to a realist as he endures the indignities and hardships of life in the American West. Rich, multifaceted, with episodes of adventure, melodrama, and suspense, *Roughing It* today still holds substantial prominence in the Twain canon.

The Twains lived in Hartford for 20 years. Most of those years were spent in residence in an architecturally bizarre mansion—designed by Twain—replete with turrets and a conservatory. Other writers, including Harriet Beecher Stowe and Charles Dudley Warner, lived nearby. Though Stowe herself realized substantial fame for her anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), Twain was probably the community's most celebrated writer. After completing *Roughing It*, he conducted a successful lecture tour of England, then returned home to collaborate with neighbor Warner on *The Gilded Age* (1873), a love story set in President Ulysses S. Grant's corrupt administration. This work is memorable for naive protagonist Mulberry Sellers, who remains steadfastly optimistic despite his poverty and inevitable failures. Despite its episodes of humor, the novel does not stand with Twain's more distinguished works.

Twain followed *The Gilded Age* with another successful tour of England, where he regaled listeners with his humorous, if sometimes caustic, anecdotes and observations. Such tours would provide Twain with needed income throughout much of his later life.

Once home again in Hartford, Twain began writing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876), a novel about a boy living near the Mississippi River. The eponymous hero of this work is an enterprising youth who rises to wealth and, thus, integration into Southern high society through a series of unlikely adventures and escapades. Early in the novel, Tom courts the favors of neighborhood newcomer Becky Thatcher, who reciprocates his affection only to learn that he had previously been tied to another girl, whereupon she ends the romance. Tom then travels with his friend, young vagrant Huckleberry Finn, to a cemetery, where their efforts to cure warts are thwarted when they witness grave robbing and a murder. The boys and another friend eventually run away and live on a nearby island. Once missing, they are believed dead, and the townsfolk hold the boys' funerals, which are interrupted by the boys themselves.

Eventually, an innocent man is jailed for the murder in the cemetery. At the trial, Tom protests, and the actual killer, Injun Joe, vaults through a window and escapes. Sometime later, Tom and Huck spot Injun Joe concealing stolen goods in an abandoned house. Tom then attends a picnic held by Becky's father. Tom and Becky decide to explore a nearby cave. Once inside, though, they become lost, then learn that Injun Joe is in the

cave too. Five days pass before Tom and Becky find an exit, one that is five miles from the entrance. They then learn that Injun Joe has starved to death within the cave. Tom and Huck soon return to the cave and uncover the killer's stolen loot. The novel ends with Huck agreeing to live with a widow while Tom placates him with assurances that they may yet live as pirates.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, beloved by readers of all ages, features some of Twain's most memorable feats of storytelling, including the trial of Injun Joe, the funeral of the missing boys, and the adventure of Tom and Becky in the cave. With the book, Twain restored his reputation with the American reading public, which had failed to support the collaborative *Gilded Age*. And time has scarcely eroded the book's popularity, which has remained strong.

After publishing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Twain immediately began work on a novel about Huckleberry Finn. While writing this work, which would occupy him intermittently for the next seven years, he traveled in Europe, publishing his observations from that trip as *A Tramp Abroad* (1880). This work, which resembled *The Innocents Abroad* in its humor, insights, and length, was another subscription book, and it too realized substantial sales. For Twain, who had grown accustomed to a rather extravagant lifestyle whether at home in his Hartford mansion or abroad in European hotels, the book's success provided much-needed income.

In 1881 Twain published *The Prince and the Pauper*, a straightforward novel about mistaken identities in 16th-century England. Tom Canty is a poor boy subjected to physical abuse by his sullen father. In an attempt to see Prince Edward, Tom steals into the royal castle, where he actually meets and befriends the prince. After Tom expresses his desire to be a prince, the boys realize that they possess an extraordinary likeness to each other and determine to exchange identities. In the ensuing days, as Tom poses as Edward, courtiers suspect their prince of madness. When Edward's father, the king, dies, Tom assumes the title. Meanwhile Edward, the actual king, wanders the streets vainly proclaiming his real identity. Tom's friend Miles, initially suspecting that his friend too is mad, eventually indulges Edward, who has resumed behaving in a royal—and, thus, insufferable—manner. While Edward futilely tries to gain the crown, Tom adopts a courtier demeanour. Eventually, a public ceremony is held, during which Tom is to don the king's crown. Edward, however, again proclaims himself the rightly king, and through revelation of a royal secret he proves his true identity. After becoming king, Edward rewards Miles for his loyalty and assures Tom that provisions will be made for his own continued well-being.

The Prince and the Pauper won acclaim as a compelling and convincing tale of historical England. But the book proved a debacle despite critics' acclaim, for Twain—in an extraordinary arrangement—had published the book himself and agreed to pay the publishing company a royalty for each book sold through the aforementioned subscription method. Unfortunately, this company was inexperienced at subscription sales and managed only meager returns, thus burdening Twain with a particularly disturbing financial setback.

Financial matters were aggravated further the next year, 1883, when *Life on the Mississippi*, Twain's recollections of his steamboat adventures, also faltered commercially. The book derived from a series of magazine articles Twain had earlier proposed and published to significant success as "Old Times on the Mississippi" while completing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. In "Old Times on the Mississippi" Twain

wrote nostalgically of his steamboat years, rendering the Mississippi River as an ever mysterious, unfathomable force of powerful reflections, murky shores, and colorful travelers. In adding to the earlier magazine articles, which were essentially memoirs, Twain revisited the river, traveling with his publisher and a secretary. After sailing from St. Louis, Missouri to New Orleans, Louisiana, he even took the return voyage aboard a boat captained by Horace Bixby, his own mentor from the riverboat days. Twain experienced considerable difficulty affixing accounts of his return journey with the earlier memoirs. The result, *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), was initially perceived by some critics as a superfluously padded volume, even by the standards accorded subscription books. Other critics, however, readily acknowledged the book as an often poetic depiction of life as seen from a pilothouse, and is now considered one of Twain's key achievements. Among the book's many champions is Robert Keith Miller, who proclaimed it in his book *Mark Twain* (1983) as the work that marked "Twain's emergence as a great modern writer" and "established Twain as something more than a western humorist."

In 1885 Twain published *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, the novel that is generally considered his masterpiece. The novel resumes Huck's tale from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, which ended with Huck's adoption by Widow Douglas. Here Huck has already adapted somewhat to social order as dictated in his new home. He has even curtailed his swearing and smoking and commenced attending school. But on a winter day Huck discovers that his alcoholic father, whom he had not seen for a year, has returned home.

Realizing that his father would soon learn of the treasure recovered earlier by Huck and Tom Sawyer (in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*), Huck gives the money to Judge Thatcher. Huck's father then returns and takes Huck into the woods, where he starves and beats him. But Huck manages to escape and stage his own death. He flees to an island, where he eventually discovers a fugitive enslaved person, Jim. The two runaways live together for a few days, after which Huck, disguised as a girl, returns to the mainland and learns that his father has once again disappeared. More important, though, he learns that his own death has been attributed to Jim. Huck hurries back to the island and informs Jim of recent events. Jim determines to head north to freedom, and Huck decides to join him. They embark by raft, and one evening they crash into a ship. Huck manages to swim to shore, but Jim disappears.

Once on the mainland again Huck befriends the Grangerford family, whose members are feuding with those of the Shepherdsons. The Grangerfords allow Huck to live among them, and they even provide him with an enslaved person. One day, though, the enslaved person reveals to Huck the presence of another slave, Jim, in the nearby woods. Reunited, Huck and Jim steal away in their raft, already repaired by Jim, as the Grangerfords and Shepherdsons resume exchanging gunfire. Back on the river, the runaways soon encounter two carpetbaggers, the Duke and the King, who are hoping to swindle a family's inheritance by posing as the deceased's long-lost brothers from England. The con artists succeed in their plot, but Huck, pitying the dead party's three daughters, executes a complicated plan that leads to exposure of the schemers. Huck and Jim then embark again on the river only to be reunited with the fleeing Duke and King. Now the four travelers join together in plans to conduct various schemes. In one town, though, the Duke hands Jim to authorities in exchange for reward money. Huck determines to help Jim escape. He presents himself to a Mrs. Phelps as her nephew. She, in turn, mistakes him for Tom Sawyer. When Tom actually arrives, he cooperates with Huck and presents himself as another fellow, Sid. Huck enlists Tom's aid in the scheme to rescue Jim. Tom, however, develops an unnecessarily complicated plot. When they help Jim escape, a chase ensues. Tom is shot in the leg and Jim is recaptured. But then

the boys learn that Jim's owner has died, bequeathing him his freedom. They also learn that Huck's father, too, has died. Tom's Aunt Sally then offers to adopt Huck, but he realizes that the process of becoming civilized is not an enjoyable one.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1885) is considered one of the greatest works in American literature. Though initially condemned in some quarters as inappropriate material for young readers, it sold well, and it soon became prized for its re-creation of the Antebellum South, its insights into slavery, its depiction of adolescent life, and, throughout, its irreverence and compassion. H.L. Mencken, writing in the *Smart Set* in 1913, hailed *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as "one of the great masterpieces of the world," and Ernest Hemingway, in his book *The Green Hills of Africa* (1935), championed Twain's novel as the most important work in American literature. Today the prestige accorded *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* continues unabated, and it is a mainstay in classrooms throughout the spectrum of American education.

Though with *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Life on the Mississippi*, and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain prospered as a creative artist, by the late 1880s he no longer enjoyed the immense financial security with which he had been accustomed. Much of his monetary woes derived from his involvement in a publishing house managed by his nephew, Charles L. Webster, who also served as Twain's business manager. Webster and Twain met with success in late 1885 when they issued the profitable *Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant* through subscription. But in ensuing years the company's success was undone by Twain's commitment to an alternative typesetting device being designed by James L. Paige. Envisioning time-and cost-saving benefits from the printing machine, Twain, for several years, channeled massive funds into its development, which was slow and unsteady. In addition, Twain was involved in multiple litigations resulting from other unsound investments. His financial stability was no longer assured.

Perhaps to revive his fortunes, Twain commenced work on another novel, one published in 1889 as *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. Here Twain produced a harsh depiction of life in 6th-century England, which, with its repressive, anti-democratic society, he likened to that of post-Civil War America. The novel's protagonist is Hank Morgan, a factory foreman who suffers a blow to the head and regains consciousness only to find himself in medieval England, which is ruled by legendary King Arthur. Ever ingenious, Hank counters court magician Merlin's superstitious ways by introducing electrical devices and gunpowder among the unsuspecting courtiers. As Hank gains in influence, though, he becomes increasing misanthropic, even slaying members of the Round Table. After his stock-market maneuvers undo the nation's economy, he is attacked by Arthur's surviving legions. With firearms, explosives, and electrical devices, Hank and a handful of supporters manage to slay tens of thousands of Arthur's knights. But Merlin, disguised as a woman, eventually reaches Hank and places a spell on him, causing him to sleep until the 19th century.

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1889) realized only scant success when it appeared. With its acid humor and bleak depiction of human progress—particularly technology—it charmed few readers accustomed to the delights of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Furthermore, the English public, which had long been enamored of Twain, condemned the novel as tasteless. In the following years, though, the novel gained recognition as an example of Twain's biting humor and his relentless disdain for technological development void of human considerations.

With *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, Twain failed to extract himself from impending financial ruin. Two years after he completed the book, his cousin Webster died, leaving Twain to manage—or, more accurately, mismanage—the company's affairs. When Paige's typesetting device was finally installed in 1894, eight years after Twain began funding its development, it proved unstable, and its many parts broke down repeatedly. Twain was compelled to declare bankruptcy.

Through shrewd maneuvering by his lawyer, who managed to have the courts force Twain to repay company loans to his own wife, Twain managed to salvage some of his money. In addition, Twain negotiated a lucrative contract with Harper publishers for an edition of his complete works. He also undertook production of another novel, *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson and the Comedy of Those Extraordinary Twins* (1893), in which a low level lawyer's collection of fingerprints undoes a murderer in the Antebellum South. The novel centers on the activities of two children switched at birth by an enslaved person, Roxana, in hopes of sparing her child the indignities of slavery. The slave owner's real son is eventually sold into slavery, and Roxana's son, though reared with all manner of social advantage, nonetheless becomes an abusive profligate who turns to crime. When Roxana threatens to reveal his actions to legal authorities, he sells her to a slave trader. The son eventually commits murder, for which twin Italian immigrants are held responsible. But the community's eccentric lawyer, Pudd'nhead Wilson, defends the innocent twins and reveals the true killer's identity by using a prized collection of fingerprints.

The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson, and the Comedy of Those Extraordinary Twins is not generally considered one of Twain's greatest successes. Its humor is often grim, and its theme of miscegenation did not prompt widespread interest. Surprisingly, however, the novel managed reasonable sales, thus briefly relieving Twain of his economic hardships. More recently, critics have made major claims for the work, some placing it among the finest American novels of the late 19th century.

With satisfactory sales of *The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson, and the Comedy of Those Extraordinary Twins*, Twain enjoyed a respite from financial woes. To further extricate himself from dire straits, he commenced a series of successful lecture tours in Canada, Australia, India, and South Africa in the mid-1890s. Always an engaging speaker, Twain would regale and cajole audiences with tall tales, amusing anecdotes, and barbed comments. After completing the tour, he published his observations as *Following the Equator* (1897), which realized substantial sales. With profits from both the lecture tour and the book, Twain managed to once again attain financial stability.

As Twain's financial situation improved, however, his health and personal life suffered. By the early 1890s, both Twain and his wife, who was plagued with a delicate constitution, experienced a variety of physical ailments. In addition, their daughter Olivia Susan contracted meningitis, and in 1896 she died. This further aggravated the already tenuous health of Twain's wife, who began having emotional problems. In 1903, however, doctors pronounced her well enough to travel with Twain to Italy, where it was hoped the milder climate might prove restorative. But her health declined drastically after they arrived in Florence, and she died the following spring. Four years later another of Twain's daughter's fell ill, this time with epilepsy, which eventually led to her death by drowning while she bathed. Finally, another daughter suffered a nervous collapse. Her relationship with Twain had often been volatile, and doctors therefore forbade them to communicate.

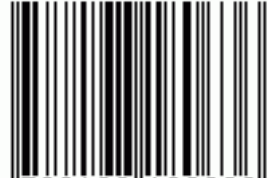
During this final, tumultuous decade of his life, Twain—perhaps understandably—grew increasingly bitter and misanthropic. He had already vented considerable pessimism in 1899 with *The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg*, his story about a stranger who exacts keen revenge on self-avowedly honest folk by compelling them to falsely vie for possession of a bag supposedly containing \$40,000. And in the posthumously published novel *The Mysterious Stranger* (1916), Satan takes human form to undo the ostensibly just citizens of a 16th-century Austrian town—its name, Eseldorf, translates as “Assville.” Here the devil leads a priest into corruption and madness, betrays several children, and eventually causes an earthquake that claims the lives of 500 people, after which he encourages the children to dance heartily. Writing in his book *Mark Twain*, Robert Keith Miller referred to *The Mysterious Stranger* as “the most important of Twain’s shorter works, [and] the most contemptuous.”

Twain’s streak of misanthropy is especially apparent in the published collections of his works, which include *The Complete Mark Twain*, *The Outrageous Mark Twain*, and *Collected Tales, Sketches, Speeches, and Essays*, the last published in 1992. As a *Tribune Books* critic noted, Twain “didn’t like human beings much, except as targets for his scorn, indignation or wrath. ... He sent his energetic prose crackling about the heads of (among others) arrogant public officials, inept musicians and singers, vain women, vainglorious military evangelists, advocates of temperance, lecturers who pretended to have known Dickens, noisemakers, males who did violence to females, smart-talking two-year-olds, editors, officious train conductors, lynchers, book-pirating publishers, nearly all barbers, scientists who deduced too much from too little evidence, swindlers (unless they had style), and, in a ferocious defense of ‘family honor,’ all seducers of women.” However, Twain also was one of his generation’s staunchest defenders of Black Americans, Native Americans, and the working class: “Twain thought that the white man’s debt was endless,” according to *New Yorker* essayist Clive James. “He didn’t come out on the side of the Union just because it won [the Civil War.] The Southern cause had deepened on repressing a minority, and that made the cause irredeemable.” Twain’s sympathy for the plight of his country’s non-privileged citizenry would be taken up in many of the short stories and journalistic works that mortar together his published anthologies.

In his last years, conducted another prosperous tour of Europe, then settled in New York City, where he enjoyed great celebrity as a prominent writer and general—often malicious—wit. His health continued to trouble him, and he suffered from angina. Hoping to provide himself some measure of relief, he travelled to Bermuda. His health continued to decline, however, and he soon returned to the United States. He died near Redding, Connecticut, on April 21, 1910.

In the years since Twain’s death, the mass of his literary achievement has increased immensely. Numerous volumes of correspondence have appeared, as have several collections of speeches, autobiographical writings, notebook entries, and even more fiction. The University of California Press has committed to publishing all remaining material in the Twain archives.

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